

# **People's Democratic Republic of Algeria**

**Embassy of Algeria in the Republic of Namibia**



## **Press Review**

**6<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

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## **DOMESTIC NEWS**

### **Forest fires: 9,165 hectares ravaged between June 1 and August 3**

*ALGIERS* - The General Directorate of Forests (DGF) has recorded, between 1 June and 3 August of the current year, 1,283 fire outbreaks covering a total area of more than 9,165 hectares (ha), the Directorate told APS.

A total of 134 fires were recorded during the two days of Eid al Adha (31 July and 1 August), mainly in the provinces of Taref, Jijel, Skikda, Bejaia and Tizi Ouzou.

Humans remain the main culprit in the majority of these disasters, whether directly or indirectly, said the Director of Prevention at the DGF, adding that the high temperatures were only a factor in the spread of the fires.

Regarding practices that can cause forest fires, Benabdellah cited clean-up operations involving the incineration of residues near the harvests, carried out by farmers themselves, especially older farmers, without taking the necessary precautionary measures (availability of a water point and sufficient number of people to extinguish any fire outbreaks).

In the same vein, the same official mentioned other practices such as fires set to enlarge agricultural areas or to renew the vegetation cover, but poorly controlled, as well as barbecues lit without vigilance by citizens going out to the forest, particularly when beaches are closed. Deploring the "lack of equipment and manpower" which directly affects the missions of foresters focused on monitoring, reporting and initial interventions, he stressed that the protection of 4.1 million hectares of forest resources "is the responsibility of everyone, hence the call for vigilance and caution."

## **ECONOMIC NEWS**

### **Agriculture: Coordination meeting to discuss agenda's programs**

*ALGIERS* - Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Abdelhamid Hamdani chaired, on Wednesday in Algiers, a coordination meeting with the central executives of his ministerial department, with a view to discussing the various programs included in the roadmap recently adopted by the Council of Ministers, the ministry said in a statement.

The meeting focused, in particular, on the elaboration of the indicators of the operational plan for the development of strategic crops (cereals, oilseeds and sugar) and of the thrifty irrigation program. These issues are "urgent," according to the press release posted on the Ministry's Facebook page.

In this regard, the minister has appointed a senior coordinator to head each of the working groups in charge of implementing the various operational plans.

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In this regard, Hamdani insisted on the urgent need to mobilize everyone to implement the adopted roadmap.

The meeting also dealt with the issue of agricultural electrification and the state of progress of studies relating to the census of the demand recorded in this field at the national level.

In addition, the Minister instructed the various central directors to ensure the continuous monitoring of other agricultural sectors, particularly the proper preparation in advance of the 2020-2021 ploughing -sowing campaign as well as the milk and potato sectors or other current issues, the Ministry concluded.

### Processed tomatoes production nears 13 million quintals until August

*ALGIERS* - The harvest and processing campaign of process tomato 2019-2020 is in full swing recording exceptional performances with an overall production of nearly 13 million quintals so far, announced the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in a communiqué.

"During the operations that started in January in the southern provinces and on 20 June in the northern regions of the country, more than 12.7 million quintals with an average yield of 743q/ha have so far been produced, i.e. an increase of 77% compared to the quantities produced in the same period of the previous year when production had reached 7.2 million quintals," the ministry said in a statement.

This quantity includes more than 5.3 million quintals of tomatoes that have been processed, resulting in the production of 471,780 quintals of triple tomato concentrate equivalent (TCT) and 239,922 quintals of double tomato concentrate (DCT).

The Ministry said that the area under processed tomato cultivation this year is estimated at 24,453 hectares, of which more than 17,000 ha were harvested.

The southern region (Adrar and Tamanrasset) has finalized its harvests with a production of 726 385 quintals, an average yield of 603 quintals/ha, while harvests are continuing in the north of the country (Skikda, Guelma, El Tarf, Annaba, Ain Defla and Chlef).

In order to encourage stakeholders in the sector, a new system to facilitate premium payment and traceability control has been set up as of this campaign.

"This system will facilitate the payment of premiums for industrial tomatoes for the benefit of farmers and processors," the ministry said.

### =Algeria no more imports double tomato concentrate=

According to the ministry's data, processed tomatoes have significantly evolved in recent years in terms of area and production, i.e. 24,800 hectares with a production of 16.5 million quintals in 2019, against 16,958 hectares with a production of 9.2 million quintals in 2013.

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"The production of tomato concentrates increased significantly from 9,200 tons in 2013 to 86,052 tons in 2019 for triple tomato concentrate (TCT) and from 21,654 tons in 2013 to 21,434 tons in 2019 for double tomato concentrate (DCT).

Thanks to this performance, Algeria has become self-sufficient in this widely consumed product by gradually dispensing with imports of tomato concentrate. In fact, the imported quantities increased from 12,782 tons in 2015 to 5,928 tons in 2017 for double concentrated tomatoes (DCT).

In addition, no tomato imports were recorded during the last two years (2018-2019).

### **FOREIGN POLICY NEWS**

#### **Beirut explosion: President Tebboune orders immediate aid to brotherly Lebanese people**

*ALGIERS* - President of the Republic, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, ordered, following the telephone conversation he had on Wednesday afternoon with his counterpart, President Michel Aoun, the immediate sending of aid to the brotherly Lebanese people, the presidency of the Republic said in a statement.

"In application of this order, four Algerian aircraft will take off towards Beirut carrying:

- Teams consisting of doctors, surgeons and firemen.
- Medical and pharmaceutical supplies.
- Food products.
- Tents, blankets and other...

An Algerian ship loaded with building materials to help rebuild what was destroyed by the blast will also have to cast off in the direction of this country, the source concluded.

#### **El-Djeich magazine stresses urgency to reach peaceful resolution to Libyan crisis**

*ALGIERS* - El Djeich magazine stressed Thursday, in its editorial, "the urgent need to reach a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Libya, and warned against the "serious" repercussions of this conflict on the countries of the region, including Algeria.

"It is no exaggeration to say that the situation in Libya leads to predict serious repercussions on the countries of the region and that it is an urgent need to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis before it is too late," wrote the magazine published by the People's National Army.

In this regard, El Djeich underlines the observation made by President of the Republic, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, Minister of the National Defense Abdelmadjid Tebboune on the situation in Libya, when he affirmed in one of his press interviews that this country is "today in a situation similar to that experienced by Syria, because of the multiplication of foreign interferences."

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The magazine warns that “the unprecedented situation prevailing currently on the ground is more dangerous than some can imagine,” considering “the effects of a proxy war that some sides are planning to execute in Libya” and which “will inevitably have repercussions on the countries of the region, including Algeria.”

### **“Western Sahara,” appellation enshrined in all international resolution**

*BELGRADE* - Algeria’s ambassador to Serbia Abdelhamid Chebchoub reaffirmed that the appellation of “Western Sahara” is enshrined in all the resolutions of the international organizations, dubbing “deceptive” the term “Moroccan Sahara” used by Rabat.

In a clarification, published by the Serbian newspaper “Politika,” Chebchoub denounced “the misleading statements” of Morocco’s ambassador to Belgrade who “strayed from the diplomatic practices that his position requires,” to participate in an interview to the same paper, published on 24 July, in a propaganda campaign against Algeria, using lies and untruths to mislead the Serbian public opinion.

In his reply to these fallacious statements, notably the issue of Western Sahara, Chebchoub underlined that by using “a deceptive term of Moroccan Sahara” contrary to the enshrined appellation of Western Sahara, stipulated in all the United Nations resolutions, the Moroccan ambassador to Belgrade tries to lead the reader to a wrong track.

“Western Sahara” is the appellation enshrined in all the resolutions of the international organizations, including the resolution 2468,” underlined the Algerian diplomat.

“The right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination that the ambassador avoids citing is enshrined in the resolution 2468. It constitutes an inalienable right of the peoples under colonial domination and the basis for the search of a solution to this conflict,” he added.

### **Algeria remains committed to nuclear disarmament**

*ALGIERS* - Algeria has shown an increased interest for the nuclear disarmament since its membership in the United Nations in 1962, working relentlessly for the ratification of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and it remains today committed to initiating substantive negotiations to this effect.

Since it joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 12 January 1995, Algeria has continuously contributed, actively, to the multilateral efforts for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Today and when the world celebrates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima, Algeria remains committed to achieving the objectives of the treaty, considered as the corner stone of the international regime in the matter.

It is under Algeria’s presidency that the States parties adopted, in the works of NPT Review Conference in 2000, the 13 practical measures in order to totally eliminate nuclear weapons.

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Like other countries, Algeria continues, until now, to call for the “full implementation, non-discriminatory and balances” of the Treaty’s three pillars, namely nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

In this respect, Algeria increases its efforts to urge the States parties to respect their commitment to implement the decision of 1995’s decision on the creation of zone free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, which constitutes an integral part of the decision of the indefinite extension of NPT in 1995.

The 10<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference, initially scheduled from 27 April to 22 May 2020 and postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic, is seen by Algeria as a symbolic opportunity to conduct a thorough examination of the treaty’s state, the implementation of anterior obligations and commitments as well as the assessment of the challenges and obstacles delaying its full implementation.

On the occasion of the double celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of NPT and of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its indefinite extension, Algeria contributed with a group of active countries in the field to the elaboration of a joint- communiqué.

In this joint communiqué, the authors recall that, in its 50<sup>th</sup> session, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

### **Beirut blast: Algeria sends more than 200 tons of aid, team of rescuers**

*ALGIERS* - The Algerian Red Crescent (CRA) on Thursday supervised an operation to send more than 200 tons of aids to Lebanon and a team rescuers and experts in disaster management in order to help this brotherly country to overcome the difficult situation caused by the explosion that shook the port of Beirut on Tuesday.

Over 200 tons of aid will be sent to the Lebanese people in order to support them in this ordeal, CRA President Saida Benhabiles told APS.

“The aid is made of foodstuffs and medical products. They will be transported aboard military aircrafts as from Thursday evening,” she continued.

“The CRA also sent a team of rescuers and disaster management experts who will help Lebanon to overcome this difficult situation,” said Benhabiles.

### **COOPERATION**

#### **Culture-USA: Executive program for heritage preservation signed**

*ALGIERS* - Minister of Culture and Arts Malika Bendouda signed Thursday, in Algiers, with the US ambassador to Algiers John Desrocher an executive program for the preservation and restoration of the cultural heritage in order to strengthen the capacities of the National Office for Management and Exploitation of Protected Cultural Property, according to a ministerial communiqué.

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The signed program concerns the archeological sites of Tipaza and Timgad (Batna), listed as world heritage.

The aforementioned program is meant to be a part of “a five-year road map” aimed at implementing this memorandum signed by the Algerian and American Governments on 15 August 2019 which includes a series of activities aimed to end the plundering of the Algerian cultural property, protect the Algerian cultural heritage and to intensify the scientific, cultural and educational exchanges.

For his part, American ambassador said that this agreement is a prelude to a series of activities between the two countries for the protection of heritage.